

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/655,025

Examiner

Allen C. Ho

Applicant(s)

HOHEISEL ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed on 07 July 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-34 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1-30, although the prior art discloses a method for producing an applying at least one of an antiscatter grid and collimator to at last one of an x-ray and gamma detector having an array of detector elements which form a detector surface with detection regions sensitive to at least one of x-radiation and gamma radiation and less sensitive intermediate regions, the method comprises the steps of: producing a basic structure to form transmission channels and intermediate walls of at least one of the antiscatter grid and collimator, including at least in a first direction a center-to-center spacing at least one of equal to and an integral multiple of a center-to-center spacing of the sensitive detection regions of the detector; coating the intermediate walls with a material which strongly absorbs at least one of x-radiation and gamma radiation; and applying at least one of the antiscatter grid and collimator to the detector surface and connecting at least one of the antiscatter grid and collimator to the detector surface in such a way that at least one of the intermediate walls running perpendicular to the first direction and their coating are situated over relatively less sensitive intermediate regions of the detector surface. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that the basic structure is produced through layer-wise solidification by using a rapid prototyping technique as claimed.

With regard to claims 31-34, although the prior art discloses a method for producing and applying at least one of an antiscatter grid and collimator to at least one of an x-ray and gamma ray detector, the method comprises the steps of: forming transmission channels and intermediate walls of at least one of the antiscatter grid and collimator, including at least in a first direction, a center-to-center spacing at least an integral multiple of a center-to-center spacing of sensitive detection regions of the detector; coating the intermediate walls with a material which strongly absorbs at least one of x-radiation and gamma radiation; and applying the at least one of the antiscatter grid and collimator to the detector surface and connecting the at least one of the antiscatter grid and collimator to the detector surface in such a way that at least one of the intermediate walls running perpendicular to the first direction and their coating are situated over relatively less sensitive intermediate regions of the detector surface. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that the transmission channels and intermediate walls are formed through layer-wise solidification using a rapid prototyping technique as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 07 July 2006 with respect to claims 1-6, 8, 13-18, 20, and 23-34 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-6, 8, 13-18, 20,

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and 23-34 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen C. Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-2491. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Allen C. Ho

Allen C. Ho, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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26 July 2006